

**THE PORTRAYAL OF BATHSHEBA AS A FEMINIST CHARACTER IN
THOMAS HARDY'S *FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD* (1874)**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in Partial
Fulfillment of Requirements to Undergraduate Degree
in English Literature Study Program*

BY:

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**FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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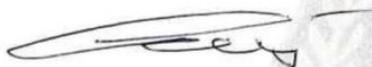
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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 276/UN4.9.1/KEP/2021 regarding supervisor, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Janet Nadia Limang (F041171306) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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THESIS

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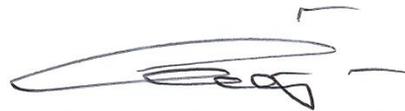
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**THE PORTRAYAL OF BATHSHEBA AS A FEMINIST CHARACTER IN
THOMAS HARDY'S *FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD***

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at English Literature Study Program, the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 31 May 2021

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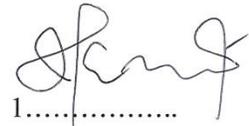
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This thesis by **JANET NADIA LIMANG** (F041171306) entitled, **THE PORTRAYAL OF BATHSHEBA AS A FEMINIST CHARACTER IN THOMAS HARDY'S *FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD*** has been revised as advised during examination on 31 May 2021 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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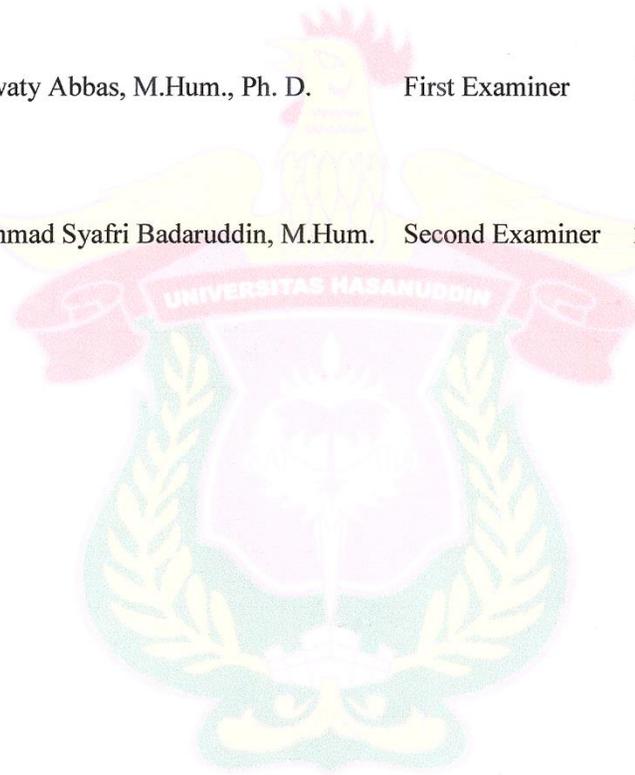
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STATEMENT LETTER

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except the quotations and references.

Makassar, May 31th 2021



Janet Nadia Limang

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ABSTRACT

JANET NADIA LIMANG. *The Portrayal of Bathsheba as a Feminist Character in Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd.* (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu** and **Sitti Sahraeny**).

This study aims to describe the main female character, Bathsheba Everdeen, as a feminist character in novel entitled *Far from the Madding Crowd*. The novel was written by Thomas Hardy, an English novelist and poet. The depiction of the character of Bathsheba as a woman in the face of a patriarchal environment and social conditions of women in the novel will be explained in the analysis.

This study used a qualitative research method. By using a structuralism genetic approach underpinned by feminism theory, the researcher focused on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the novel that described the social conditions of women in the Victorian era. The theory of feminism is used in this study to describe the character of Bathsheba Everdeen as the main female character in the novel.

The results of this study indicated that the social conditions of women in the Victorian era can be seen from how the main character in the novel, Bathsheba was treated as a weak creation and unable to do the work done by men. In addition, the researcher concluded that Bathsheba is a female character that breaks the standardization of feminine traits that were considered to be owned by all women in the Victorian era.

Keywords: Thomas Hardy, Feminism, Women, Victorian Era

ABSTRAK

JANET NADIA LIMANG. 2021. *Penggambaran Bathsheba sebagai Karakter Feminis dalam novel Thomas Hardy yang berjudul Far from the Madding Crowd.* (Dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **Sitti Sahraeny**).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan tokoh utama wanita yaitu Bathsheba Everdeen sebagai karakter feminis dalam novel *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Novel tersebut ditulis oleh Thomas Hardy, seorang novelis dan penyair Inggris. Penggambaran karakter Bathsheba sebagai perempuan dalam menghadapi lingkungan yang patriarki dan kondisi sosial perempuan dalam novel yang akan dijelaskan dalam analisis.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan genetik strukturalisme yang didukung dengan teori feminisme, peneliti berfokus pada unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik dalam novel yang mendeskripsikan kondisi sosial perempuan pada era Victoria. Teori feminisme digunakan dalam penelitian ini untuk menggambarkan karakter Bathsheba Everdeen sebagai tokoh utama wanita dalam novel.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kondisi sosial wanita pada era Victoria dapat terlihat dari bagaimana karakter utama dalam novel, Bathsheba diperlakukan sebagai ciptaan yang lemah dan tidak dapat melakukan pekerjaan yang dilakukan oleh pria. Selain itu, peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa Bathsheba adalah karakter wanita yang mematahkan standarisasi sifat feminin yang dianggap harus dimiliki perempuan di era Victoria.

Kata kunci: Thomas Hardy, Feminisme, Perempuan, Era Victoria.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Literature is a form of written works that can entertain and also can increase reader's understanding and awareness. Literature can greatly influence the views of something and through it someone can also express their opinion, feelings, and even voicing injustice in society. Issues in society which at first some people may not aware of then become more aware because of the existence of literary works.

There is a sentence that is stated by Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors, (2009) "Literary means not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed, what is invented, in whatever form". It was all because of the views from some people who aware of their surroundings and try to express it into literary works. There are many forms of literary works that were used to express writers aware such as novel, poetry, drama, short story, and etc. As commonly known by people that a novel is a work written for entertaining purposes but on the other hand, a novel also has its own uniqueness. Contrary to the views of most people, Holman (1914: 299) argues that:

All novels are representations in fictional narrative of life or experience, but the form is itself and protean as life and experience themselves have proven to be. Serious fiction deals with human beings in significant action in the world... An author's world may be only within the lowest recesses of the human unconscious...

The researcher agrees the idea that a novel is not just an entertaining work of fiction, it is also one of the most influential works of the human mind. According to Jane Austen in *Northanger Abbey* (1817: 25), “It is only a novel... or, in short, only some work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour, are conveyed to the world in the best-chosen language.”

Through literary works like novel, we can find some issues that really happen around us but we may not be aware. One of them is the injustice obtained by women in the society. In fact this problem can be seen in various literary novels written by many famous authors. Such issues can also be seen in one of Thomas Hardy's novels.

Thomas Hardy was one of the biggest novelist and poet in England. He was born in Stinsford, Dorset, England on June 2, 1840 and died in Dorchester, Dorset, England on January 11, 1928. During his lifetime, he has created several poetry and novels. He learned a lot from his father about ballads and that greatly affected his poetry then he started writing novels but experienced several failures. His popularity has been increasing due to several successful novels that have attracted the readers' interest, such as *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874), *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), *Jude the Obscure* (1895), and many more.

Thomas Hardy's novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* was his fourth novel but his first popular success. *Far from the Madding Crowd* was first published in 1874

with Victorian era setting. This novel takes the reader on a journey to see the life of Bathsheba, a young girl who is an orphan but educated and has a strong character. She is a Victorian British woman who experienced obstacles in maintaining her leadership role in the farm inherited from her uncle and many critics came from people who doubted Bathsheba's leadership.

The researcher interests in the condition of society in the Victorian era that is patriarchal, so that women have less opportunities than men to do what they want or live independently. In Victorian era, women required to be married, have cooking skills, washing, cleaning, and do all the household chores. Altick stated (as cited from Felicia Appell, 2012: 2), A woman was inferior to a man in all ways except the unique one that counted most [to a man]: her femininity. Her place was in the home, on a veritable pedestal if one could be afforded, and emphatically not in the world of affairs. These views on women have become stereotypes that make women not free and bound by the rules in society. “Many people considered women as creatures that have no abilities to do better things than men. Thus, in the perspectives of the society, men are socially superior, while women are inferior” (Snowden in Nandy Intan Kurnia, 2012: 46). But it contradicts with Bathsheba, the main female character who is independent, diligent, and hard-working woman.

Through the main female character in the novel, Bathsheba was described as a character that breaks the standardization of feminine traits that every woman must have in the Victorian era, this is the reason why the researcher found this novel

interesting to discuss. Thomas Hardy describes Bathsheba as an independent woman who does not need men to fulfill her material needs. That is what makes Bathsheba a unique and interesting character because she is different from other women in the Victorian era in general.

1.2. Identification of Problem

The researcher identified some problems that can be analyzed in Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd*:

1. Expectations toward women on how to behave
2. Views that women are not capable of being leaders and own a property
3. A stereotype that women depend on marriage and men
4. Assumption about women are not smart or strong enough to work like men

1.3. Scope of Problem

The researcher will focus on the portrayal of the main female character in the novel who reflects feminist values and the social condition of women in the Victorian era that reflected in *Far from the Madding Crowd*

1.4. Statement of Problem

1. How is the portrayal of the main female character in the novel reflecting feminist values?
2. How is the social condition of women in the Victorian era reflected in *Far from the Madding Crowd*?

1.5. Objective of the Study

1. To describe the portrayal of the main female character in reflecting feminist values
2. To analyze the social condition of women in the Victorian era reflected in *Far from the Madding Crowd*

1.6. Significances of the Study

This research is expected to enrich knowledge and information for readers. It is hoped that readers can understand the author's intention in discussing the problems in this novel as already mentioned regarding the portrayal of the main female character in reflecting feminist values, as well as the social condition of women in the Victorian era, and also in order to increase readers' awareness of feminism that feminism does not mean making women more powerful than men, it is about equality between men and women.

1.7. Sequence of Writing

This research consists of five sequences, such as the first chapter that is introduction, the second chapter is literature review, the third chapter is research methodology and the last chapter is chapter five that presents conclusion and suggestion.

Chapter one provides background of the research, identification of problem, the scope of problem, the statement of problem, the objective of writing, the significances of the study, and the sequence of writing.

Chapter two consists of previous related studies of the research, theoretical background that is Genetic Structuralism: intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel, also the theory of feminism that the researcher uses to analyze the woman main character in the novel.

The third chapter covers the research methodology of the study, including research methodology, data sources, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

Chapter four explains about the analysis of the research which is characters, setting, plot, theme, the portrayal of Bathsheba as a main female character who reflects feminist values, and for the extrinsic elements the researcher will analyze the social condition of women in the Victorian era reflected in the novel.

The last chapter is chapter five that provides conclusion of the analysis and the suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Previous Related Studies

This previous related studies are used by the writer to supports this study. There are three previous studies that the researcher obtained, the first one is written by Affroni and Dr. I.M. Hendrarti, M.A. (2013), the second is by Adriana Trigiani (2010), and the last one is by Liana (2011).

The first study is *Analysis on The Issue of Women Oppression in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby* written by Affroni and Dr. I.M. Hendrarti, M.A. (2013) from Diponegoro University. In this journal, the writers focused on the discrimination on women's rights in a patriarchal society and to analyze their data, they used theory of feminism. In the conclusion of the study, the writers found that patriarchal in *The Great Gatsby* also occur in real life and have rooted for a long time in society so it is difficult to free women from patriarchal society. Even if it is possible, it would take a long time to actually erase the system.

The second is *An Analysis of The Main Character through Feminism Approach in The Novel Lucia, Lucia* written by Adriana Trigiani (2010) from Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University. The novel described about a woman who wants to achieve equality with men but faced with many problems. The writer of this thesis used a descriptive method and feminism approach to analyze Lucia as the main

character who reflects feminism values. This thesis found that the main character in novel Lucia, Lucia reflected feminism values such as educated, independent, decisive, and obstinate woman who has a goal to be equal with men.

The last study entitled *An Analysis of Fatalism in Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd* written by Liana (2011) from Sumatera Utara University. The writer focused on the main characters that are Gabriel Oak and Bathsheba Everdene who were met by fate although they went through various obstacles, and separated, but at the end they were finally united by marriage. To analyze this novel, the writer of the thesis used theory of expression and the theory of mimetic to describe fatalism that was reflected in the novel. The findings of this research is the fate about meeting and separation are beyond human power and we cannot see or know what kind of fate that will happen in the future same as what happened to the main characters in the novel.

It can be concluded that all the previous studies that has been mentioned above have similarities and differences with this research. Although the object on this research and the research by Liana are same, but in Liana's thesis discuss about fatalism while the researcher in this study uses genetic structuralism and focuses on the woman main character's portrait and also the social condition of women in the Victorian era reflected in the novel which have similarities with other previous studies that are mentioned but with different objects.

2.2. Genetic Structuralism

Genetic structuralism was first put forward by Lucien Goldmann who was a sociologist born in Bucharest, Romania. Genetic structuralism was first written in his book entitled "*The Hidden God*". The origin of the emergence of this theory is due to different opinions regarding structuralism theory that only focused on intrinsic elements of the novel that is why Goldmann created genetic structuralism that focused not only limited to the author's imagination but also external influences such as the environment, history, society, culture, etc.

Genetic structuralism views that historical background, era, and social environment, as well as the author's socialization with the society in their environment greatly influences the author in creating a literary work. (Jabrohim, 2003: 61), Moreover according to Goldmann (1980: 149) "Contrary to linguistically based structuralism, genetic structuralism asserts that in no instance could structures replace man as historical subject, even if they do characterize human thought, behavior and emotions".

In conclusion to what have been mentioned above, the researcher stated that genetic structuralism refers to intrinsic and extrinsic elements to analyzing the literary works. In its application, genetic structuralism views the extrinsic elements as an inseparable part of the literary works. It is important to connect the literary work with the real life to make the readers realize that some issues are real, also to help the

writer to share their thought about the events that happened when maybe some people did not aware of.

A. Intrinsic Elements

1. Character

Character in a story are not limited to humans but can also be animals or plants based on the author's imagination. Characters are the performers to the story because without characters, there is no story to tell or perform. Character can be divided into several types such as:

a. Central and Peripheral Character

Based on the aspect of the role and the level of importance, character divided into central character and peripheral character (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 176). Central character or usually called main character is the one who is told the most in the novel and always related with other characters (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 176-177). Besides that Nurgiyantoro (1998: 177) added that main character also greatly influences the development of the plot as a whole. The role of peripheral character is less than the main character and it's only if there is a direct or indirect connection with the main character (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 177). It can concluded that main character have the most important role in the novel but does not mean that peripheral character is not important, every character has their own role that affect the plot.

b. Protagonist and Antagonist Character

Based on the function of the character's appearance, character can also divided into protagonist and antagonist character (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 178). Protagonist character is the character who wants to achieve his/her goals and the antagonist character is the one who prevents the protagonist from reaching their goals. As written by Abrams (1999:224), “The chief character in a plot, on whom our interest centers, is called the protagonist (or alternatively, the hero or heroine), and if the plot is such that he or she is pitted against an important opponent, that character is called the antagonist.”

2. Setting

Klarer (1998: 24) stated that “the term “setting” denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops”. Based on Klarer’s statement, the researcher concluded that settings are divided into 3 parts, such as:

- a. Setting of place describes about the places visited or told in the story such as, the City of Makassar.
- b. Setting of time describes or shows the time in the story such as, afternoon, or even more specifically: on April 19th 1999.
- c. Social environment described the environment on the novel including: industrial development, the government, culture, religion, economy, health, etc.

3. Plot

Perrine (1974: 41) said that “plot is the sequence of incident or events which the story is composed.” It is true because without the plot, the reader will find it difficult to understand the story. The researcher uses Freytag’s Pyramid to analyze the plot. Freytag’s Pyramid according to Gustav Freytag (in Holman 1914: 143) was consists of exposition, rising action, climax or turning point, falling action, and catastrophe or denouement or usually called resolution.

- a. Exposition, the beginning of the story or the introduction of characters and settings. As stated by Holman (1914: 177), “In dramatic structure the exposition is the introductory material, which creates the tone, gives the setting, introduces the characters and supplies other facts necessary to an understanding of the play.”
- b. Rising action, problem recognition where problems arise when the protagonist wants to achieve their goal. Holman (1914: 385-386) argues that “Rising Action: The part of dramatic plot which has to do with the complication of the action.”
- c. Climax or turning point, the most intense part in the middle of the story, Holman (1914: 84) wrote about climax or turning point is crisis part that almost the end of the story but this part interest the reader’s greatest emotional response.

- d. Falling action, action and impact that occurs after climax, or as stated by Holman (1914: 181-182) in falling action the hero (protagonist) usually fail to achieve their goal because of the antagonist character's effort.
- e. Resolution, problem solving or a way out of the problem or as stated by Abrams (1999: 227) "A frequently used alternative term for the outcome of a plot is the resolution."

4. Theme

According to Arp and Johnson (1956: 203), "The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story." Moreover, Holman (1914: 443) also wrote that "Theme: The central or dominating idea in a literary work... In poetry, fiction, and drama it is the abstract concept which is made concrete through its representation in person, action, and image in the work." The researcher concluded that theme is the idea or message of the literary works that provides an overview of the content of the story.

B. Extrinsic Elements

- **Social Condition of Women in Victorian Era**

The Victorian era is named after Queen Victoria who ruled in 1837 until her death in early 1901. This era was marked by industrial growth. "Britain led the way

in manufacturing, earning the nickname the “workshop of the world.” The growth of British industries drew vast numbers of people from the countryside to rapidly growing towns and cities” (Chrisp, 2005: 5).

However, this successful growth did not make any difference for women to gain freedom to do things other than stay at home and be required to do house chores. This patriarchal society also greatly prevents women from expressing themselves and makes women do not have the same rights as men. As stated by Tyson (2006: 85), “This belief in the inborn inferiority of women is a form of what is called biological essentialism because it is based on biological differences between the sexes that are considered part of our unchanging essence as men and women.” The researcher will discuss the social condition of women in the Victorian era by divided it into stereotypes in society about women and how women are treated in the workplace.

a. Stereotypes

Women in the Victorian era were always associated with house chores. They were prepared from childhood to become a wife who can clean the house, wash clothes, and cook like a housemaid and not a wife. “Men were meant to participate in politics and in paid work, while women were meant to run households and raise families” (Steinbach, 2019: 1).

Women are also required to be married and be able to take care of their children and husband on the grounds that a husband has worked hard to earn money and a wife has to serve her husband. Neff (1929: 14) stated that “Women ought to

marry. There ought to be husbands for them. Women were potential mothers”. This statement shows people’s belief about women in Victorian Era.

Various rules and views that determine how a woman should act not only as mentioned above, in the Victorian era fashion was the main thing for women because their clothes determine their social identity. According to Chrisp (2005: 5), “Just as people have always done, the Victorians used clothes as a type of language, sending signals to others about their class, status, and attitudes”. Women would be seen as elegant and beautiful if they wore torturous dresses and corsets. Moreover Chrisp (2005: 8) stated, “Beneath her dress, a woman wore several layers of petticoats and a tightly laced corset, stiffened with strips of whalebone, which stretched from her chest down to her hips”.

This assumption then becomes a stereotype against women that they have to wear tight dresses so that their waists is shaped and look slim. Moreover Chrisp (2005: 8) said that “A tightly laced corset was also considered a sign of a good character. A “loose woman” was one who behaved in an immoral way”.

b. Employment

It cannot be denied that women and men are different physically and biologically, but it should not create boundaries for women that they cannot work like men. Differences do exist but are not an excuse to make one more superior than the other. Tyson (2006: 86) argues that:

Feminists don't deny the biological differences between men and women; in fact, many feminists celebrate those differences. But they don't agree that such differences as physical size, shape, and body chemistry make men naturally superior to women: for example, more intelligent, more logical, more courageous, or better leaders.

This patriarchal society that lowers the status of women makes it difficult for women to express their skills such as in leading, not only men, women are also capable of being good leaders and being leaders does not have to be a strong man. Tyson (2006: 85) stated, "These gender roles have been used very successfully to justify inequities, which still occur today, such as excluding women from equal access to leadership and decision-making positions (in the family as well as in politics, academia, and the corporate world)..." Women in the Victorian era were considered weak and needed protection from men so that working women were seen as incompetent. According to Neff (1929: 14), "Classing women and children together as helpless creatures needing the protection of strong men, they were indignant at the knowledge that women had to support themselves, that they suffered degrading wrongs as working women."

2.3. Theory of Feminism

The women's movement called feminism which demands equal rights has a long history. Feminism originally appeared in New York, America in 1700s and then spread throughout the world. "Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity

on behalf of women's rights and interests" (Brunell and Burkett, 2020: 1). Feminism is a movement that fights for women's rights to achieve equality with men. According to Offen (2018: 123),

“But what was feminism? The dictionary definition (in composite) read approximately as follows: a theory and/or movement concerned with advancing the position of women through such means as achievement of political, legal, or economic rights equal to those granted men (my emphasis).”

Feminism is often confused with male haters, but actually feminism against the patriarchal system, not men. The existence of this movement shows the social condition that makes women feel disadvantaged by a patriarchal society. Brunell and Burkett (2020: 1) mentioned that in medieval times, there are a lot of oppression for women such as not being involved in public life because they were specifically for men, in Germany a husband had the right to sell their wife and not only that, women are also do not have access to education.

Women are often placed in second position after men and caused many injustices that have been experienced by women in their lives since they were young. This serious awareness that make women began to carry out movements demanding equality in society. Guo (2018: 453) states that Feminism consists of 2 waves, the first wave which is called Liberal Feminism and the second wave called the Women's Liberation Movement.

The first wave of feminism happened in 1848 that located in Seneca Falls Convention. This first movement demanding equality had a long struggle for women until finally successful in their legal vote right. In the second wave of feminism that began in 1960s, women's organization was formed which aimed to improve the status of women in society or in other words, equal legal and social rights.

The feminist movements began to develop and divided into several types according to Maynard (1995: 259), “The ‘Big Three’ as they have been referred to are usually taken to mean liberal feminism, Marxist or socialist feminism and radical feminism, although, as I shall indicate, the number of categories has proliferated over the years”. So not only at that time, feminism still develops until now.